

KEARSLEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

:: For 1914, ::

BY

J. C. EAMES, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health

AND

GEORGE WALSH,


Inspector of Nuisances.



Issued by the
KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
March, 1915.



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Medical Officer's Report.

BARNFIELD HOUSE,

STONECLOUGH,

March 11th, 1915.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Kearsley Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

It is with much pleasure I present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your district for the past year.

It is my thirtieth, for I was appointed your Medical Officer in 1885, when Mr. J. W. Watkinson was Chairman of the old Local Board. Mr. Edward Pilkington is the only member or official, then acting, who is now living. On the formation of the District Council in 1895, Mr. Watkinson was succeeded by Mr. James Fletcher, as Chairman. He in 1900 by Mr. Joseph Openshaw, in 1904 by Mr. Francis Shippobottom, and in 1913 by Dr. Pickering.

I must express my great thanks to these five gentlemen for the uniform kindness and consideration they have shewn me, even when at times I may have rather persisted in urging changes they thought uncalled for. Looking back to 1885 there is no doubt the district, and the condition of the people, have immensely improved. A proper Sewerage Scheme has been carried out, nearly all the streets have been paved and sewered and the footpaths flagged, a Public Mortuary has been built, and now a good beginning has been made at the abolition of the Privy Ashpit. A Nuisance Inspector and a District Nurse have also greatly helped the sanitary state of the district. The wages of the people have largely increased, enabling them to have better houses, furniture, clothing, food, and amusements.

These changes have caused a general fall in the Death and, a still more remarkable one in, the Birth Rates. The former, then about 18, now about 13, gives 27 per cent of a fall. The Births in 1885, with a population of 7,250, were 286, and a rate of 39. Now, with a population of 9,850, they are only 221 (in 1912 only 200), and a rate of 22. There is thus a fall of 43 per cent. This would be of less importance if the Infantile Death Rate had fallen, but it has not. I believe the general prosperity to be the cause of both—that is, the low Birth Rate and the high Infantile Death Rate. The high wages to be earned in the mills make our female population more independent and less inclined for home life. Even after marriage they are unable to resist the temptation to return to the mill. The chief cause of Infant Mortality is the mother's failure to suckle her children. When to this is added Debility of both mother and child, owing to the former standing and working long hours in a mill, there is small chance of a diminution. But I believe that before long we shall have an increased Birth Rate and take more care that the children are healthy, for a shortage is even now being felt, and where there is a demand there is sure in time to be a supply.

The area of your district is 1,005 acres and the number of inhabited houses 2,248 against 2,110 in 1911. If we reckon 4·5 persons to a house (as in 1911), we should get a population of 10,116, but I believe there are now fewer, and that 9,850 is a fair estimate.

The number of Deaths registered in the district during the past year was 124, and to this number must be added seven who died out of it but belonged to it. This gives a rate of 13·2 per 1,000 per annum, compared with 13·1 in 1913, and an average of 13·5 for the last five years. 63 of the Deaths were male and 68 female; 61 occurred in the first half of the year and 70 in the second. October was the worst month with 20, and June the best with 5. Thirty were under one year of age, 9 between 1 and 5, 8 between 5 and 15, 3 between 15 and 25, 15 between 25 and 45, 40 between 45 and 65, and 26 over 65.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia were as usual the chief causes of death with 22 against 17 in 1913, Congenital Debility including Premature Birth with 14 against 17, Heart Disease with 13 against 10, Cancer 11 against 7, Phthisis and Diarrhœa 7 each against 4 and 12. There were 2 deaths each from Measles and Erysipelas, and 1 each from Enteric Fever, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough.

The Births during the year were 221, 112 male and 109 female. This gives a rate of 22·4 per 1,000 per annum, against 24 in 1913 and 20·5 (our lowest) in 1912.* It also gives a natural increase of the population of 90.

*That for the County in 1913 was 22·2.

The Infantile Mortality, or proportion of deaths of children under one year of age to 1,000 births, was 135. This compares with 157 in 1913, and an average for the last five years of 142; that for the County in 1913 being 124. Though too high, I think on the whole we may be content, after the long and hot Summer we enjoyed, for such weather has often given us a much higher rate. I have before alluded to a constant cause of its being so high, the climate is a variable one.

The Zymotic Rate, that is the Death rate from the seven principal epidemic diseases, was only 1·2. This is very fair, especially as over a half was due to Diarrhœa. The rate from Phthisis was 0·7, not so good, but better than our average for ten years. The cases of Scarlet Fever were spread throughout the year, only January being free. They occurred in 32 different houses. On several occasions two or three were notified at the same time, so that only three times could a second case have possibly been escaped if the first had been sent to Hospital. This is much less than our experience when we sent many there.

The Notifications of Infectious Disease were 71 against 40 last year. This is just up to our average for the first ten years since they became compulsory, notwithstanding that there have been important additions to the list. Forty were of Scarlet Fever, 9 of Erysipelas, 9 Phthisis, 7 Enteric Fever, 2 Diphtheria, and one each of Continued Fever, Ophthalmia

Neonatorum, Puerperal Fever, and Tuberculosis (not pulmonary). In connection with this subject I may mention that arrangements have been made with Professor Delepine to help in the diagnosis of cases of Phthisis and Enteric Fever. During the year five specimens have been sent him, and no doubt in the future it will be even more useful.

Measles was very prevalent in the Infant department of St. John's School in May and June, and it was necessary to close it for a month.

The Cow-sheds and Dairies, the Factories and Workshops, and the Schools, have been visited and found satisfactory, as was also the case with the Slaughter-houses.

A considerable amount of time and work has been given to the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909. One hundred and thirty nine houses were examined and reported on. Poor ventilation and dampness were as usual the chief faults to be found. These have been or are being attended to. Closing orders were made in 15 cases; alterations are being made in some of these, but they are not yet complete. Any deficiency in accommodation is particularly to be pointed out by the orders of the Local Government Board, but, as I remarked last year, there is none. In fact, the number of persons in each house is gradually becoming smaller, but in eight only of the new houses built during the year are there more than two bedrooms. May I suggest that in laying out new streets provision be made for the planting of trees along the sides? The only objection I see to this is my old enemy the Smoke Nuisance, but some trees would stand even that, and there is no reason why it should continue. I am pleased to say more efforts have been made to suppress it, 18 observations having been taken and three prosecutions in Court. Besides its ill effect on plant life, it is equally or more injurious to animal, as I have pointed out in former reports.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. EAMES, M.D.

TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous Years.

KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.						Under one year of age.		At all ages.	
			Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non Residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	9800	276	...	28·1	121	12·3	...	1	30	108	122	12·4
1910	9800	230	...	23·3	126	12·7	...	5	37	160	131	13·3
1911	9700	237	...	24·4	152	15·6	...	14	41	172	166	17·1
1912	9750	200	...	20·5	101	10·4	...	16	23	115	117	12
1913	9800	236	...	24	114	11·6	1	16	37	157	129	13·1
1914	9850	221	...	22·4	124	12·5	1	8	30	135	131	13·2

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 1,005.

Total population at all ages, 9,676. Number of inhabited houses, 2,110. } At Census
Average number of persons per house 4.5. } of 1911.

TABLE II.
KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1914.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in whole District.							Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At Ages—Years.							
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45	45 to 65.		65 and upwards.
Small Pox ..								
Cholera (C) Plague (P).....								
Diphtheria (including Membran- eous Croup).....	2			2				
Erysipelas	9				1	5	3	
Scarlet Fever.....	40		12	24	4			
Typhus Fever	7		1			5	1	
Enteric Fever								
{ Relapsing Fever (R)	1		1					
{ Continued Fever (C).....	1					1		
Puerperal Fever.....								
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.....	9				3	3	3	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1			1				
Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	1	1						
Ophthalmia Neonatorum								
Totals.....	71	1	14	27	8	14	7	

Isolation Hospital—Heywood Small Pox. Sanatoria, &c.—Eccles Sanatorium.

TABLE III.

KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT

Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1914.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.								
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
All causes { Certified Uncertified	131								
Enteric Fever	1						1		
Small-pox									
Measles	2	1		1					
Scarlet Fever	1				1				
Whooping Cough.....	1			1					
Diphtheria and Croup									
Influenza	1							1	
Erysipelas	2							1	1
Phthisis (Pulm. Tuberculosis)	7					2	2	3	
Tuberculous Meningitis									
Other tuberculous diseases...	1		1						
Cancer, malignant disease ...	11						1	8	2
Rheumatic Fever	1				1				
Meningitis	3			2	1				
Organic Heart Disease	13	1					2	8	2
Bronchitis	11						1	5	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	11	2	2		3	1	1		2
Other diseases of Respiratory organs.....									
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	7	6	1						
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...									
Cirrhosis of Liver									
Alcoholism	1							1	
Nephritis and Bright's disease	2							2	
Puerperal Fever ..									
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	1						1		
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including premature Birth	14	14							
Violent Deaths, excluding									
Suicide	3	1		1	1				
Suicide	1							1	
Other defined Diseases	22	4			1		6	10	1
Diseases ill-defined or unknown, and Old Age	14	1							13
	131	30	4	5	8	3	15	40	26

TABLE IV.

KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT

Infant Mortality.

1914. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

Cause of Death.				Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under One year.
All causes { Certified ... 131 Uncertified ...													
{ Small-pox... ..													
{ Chicken-pox													
{ Measles ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
{ Scarlet Fever													
{ Whooping Cough													
{ Diphtheria and Croup													
Erysipelas													
{ Tuberculous Meningitis... ..													
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis													
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases													
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)													
Convulsions ... ..				...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Laryngitis													
Bronchitis... ..													
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	..	2
{ Diarrhoea ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
{ Enteritis ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Gastritis									1		3		4
Syphilis													
Rickets													
Suffocation, overlying													
Injury at Birth													
Atelectasis													
{ Congenital Malformations				1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
{ Premature Birth				5	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	5
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus				3	...	..	...	3	5	...	...	1	9
Other Causes				1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
				10	...	1	..	11	6	2	8	3	30

Nett Births { legitimate, ... 217
in the year { illegitimate, ... 4

Nett Deaths { legitimate infants, ... 29
in the year { illegitimate infants... 1

TABLE C.

Summary of Medical Officer's Report for 1914.

URBAN DISTRICT OF KEARSLEY.

Medical Officer of Health—JAMES C. EAMES, M.D. Salary—£80.

Inspector of Nuisances—GEORGE WALSH. Salary—£100.

What is the character of the Hospital Accommodation?—For Small-pox — Good. For other Infectious Diseases—Good. Is it Joint or otherwise?—Joint.—£5 a head paid for three beds, but any number admitted. Number of Beds available for your District? For Small-pox, Unlimited. For other Infectious Diseases, Unlimited. Deaths in Hospital of patients removed from your District?—From what causes?—None.

How is disinfection carried out?—Houses, Formalin Lamps; Number of Houses disinfected?—75. State how disinfection of Clothing, &c., in these cases is carried out?—Exposure to Formalin, Air, and Washing.

Are any Diseases not specifically mentioned in the Infectious Diseases Notification Act notifiable (for instance, Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, Chicken Pox, &c.)? If so, what are they? No.

Diseases specially prevalent?—Measles. Period?—May and June. Number of times School Closure adopted?—Once. For what disease?—Measles. Number of Special Reports made under Art. XIX. (15 and 16) Sanitary Officer's Order, 1910?—None.

Bacteriological Examinations. Specimens examined: Blood—2. Sputum—3. Milk—None. Others—None.

Arrangement (if any) made under the Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order, 1910?—Serum supplied free.

“The Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 to 1909.” Has your Authority determined the procedure to be adopted for the inspection of your District as required by Article 1 of the Regulations?—Yes. Has your Authority prepared, as required by Article 1 (3), a list of dwelling-houses, the early inspection of which is desirable?—Yes.

Has your Authority designated an officer to undertake the special inspection of houses and to keep the records stipulated by Article 2. If so, what officer?—Yes. Nuisance Inspector. Have the necessary books, forms, &c., for keeping the required records been obtained?—Yes. Action taken in 1914:—Number of Dwelling-houses inspected under Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909?—139. Number of Dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation?—15. Number of Representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders?—15. Number of Closing Orders made?—15. Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders?—None. Number of Dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders?—At present being put in a state of habitation. Number of Dwelling-houses demolished?—2. General character of defects found to exist?—Insufficient Ventilation, Dampness.

Is there a deficiency of housing accommodation?—No.

Number of New Houses built during 1914. By and at the cost of the District Council?—Nil. By private enterprise?—25.

Source of the Water Supply.—Bolton Corporation. What is its condition?—Good. Possibilities of contamination?—Slight. Any insufficiency, and where?—No.

Is Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse carried out satisfactorily for whole of district?—Yes. How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses)?—By Sanitary Authority.

How is the Refuse disposed of?—On Tips and to Farmers. Has a Destructor been provided?—No.

Sewage Disposal Works. Method of Treatment?—Bacteriological System. What is the character of the Drainage System?—Good. Any developments during year?—None. Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system?—None. Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, &c.?—When necessary.

Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams?—None.

Canal Boats : Number Inspected?—None in this district.

What is the condition of the Bakehouses?—Good. What is the condition of the Slaughter Houses?—Good. Has a Public Abattoir been provided?—No. What is the condition of the Lodging Houses?—None in the district.

What is the Sanitary condition of the Schools?—Good.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—Are they periodically inspected?—Yes. What is their condition?—Good. Have Regulations been made under the Order of the L.G.B.?—Yes. Are they enforced?—Yes. Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow?—500 cubic feet. Number of Cowkeepers?—10. Number on Register?—10. Number of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)?—10. Number on Register?—10. Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows?—Only by the County Inspector. Action taken (if any) as to tuberculous milk?—No.

Total amount of Food seized as unfit for Human Consumption?—The entire carcase of one Cow and all offal. Number of Carcases and parts of Carcases condemned for Tuberculosis?—As above. Number of Legal Proceedings, and result?—1. The Butcher was fined £10 and costs.

Department of Inspector of Nuisances.—Number of Notices served?—304. Nuisances remedied?—676. Number of Legal Proceeding taken and result?—None.

Closet Accommodation of the District.—Number of Privy Middens?—1347. Pail Closets?—44. Fresh Water Closets?—438. Waste Water Closets?—155. Number of Privy Middens converted during 1914?—To W.C.'s, 140. To Pails, &c., Nil. Number of Pail Closets converted to W.C.'s?—Nil. Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion of either privies or pail closets, or both? If so, how much?—To the conversion of privies.—One half the cost. What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property?—W.C.'s in every case.

Smoke.—Number of Observations?—19. Number of Legal Proceedings taken and result?—Two, and in one case further proceedings for enforcing the Order of the Court. What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?—7½ minutes per hour.

Has the Authority adopted—

“The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890”?—No.

“The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890”?—Yes.

“The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907”?—Yes.

“The Notification of Births Act, 1907”?—No.

Has a Health Visitor (whole, or part time) been appointed?—No.

Has any, and if so, what action been taken respecting Child Welfare Work?—Circular issued in the Autumn.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1914.—Mortuary completed. 140 Privy Middens converted to W.C.'s. Back Hilton Street Paved and Sewered.

Chief Sanitary requirements of District.—Same as for some years, more houses with three bedrooms, more conversions of Privy Ashpits into W.C.'s.

Kearsley Urban District Council.

Inspector of Nuisances' Report.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
KEARSLEY, 1915.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kearsley Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting to you my Fourteenth Annual Report, I wish to state that a large portion of the undermentioned work has been carried out through my visiting the owners or persons responsible for the sanitary condition of the premises, and pointing out the necessity of the work required to be done. In a great many cases the work has been carried out without the necessity of serving legal notices.

As authorised by the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Water Closets are now required to all new property. In all cases where additional closet accommodation is required for existing houses, Water Closets are being insisted upon.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	...	287
Notices served	...	...	...	304

DESCRIPTION OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

To open, clean out, and flush choked drains	...	32
Construct proper drains	... ..	9
Fix stretch trapped gullies	... ..	1
Repair broken slop pipes	... ..	1
Fill up and repair insanitary privies	... ..	18
Repair defective easing troughs and downspouts	...	5
Provide Water Closets in place of privies	...	140
Providing Ashbins	... ..	19
Limewash, cleanse and purify	... ..	9
Make Windows to open	... ..	5
Cleanse dirty premises	3
Pave or flag yards	5
Miscellaneous Nuisances	40

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HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, &C. ACTS, 1909, AND PUBLIC HEALTH
Act, 1875.

HOUSING INSPECTION.—Details of work done after inspection
under the above-named Acts.

Improve Ventilation by making windows to open or opening Fire-places, or fixing Ventilators ...	182
Repair defects causing dampness ...	49
Pave yards... ..	44
Limewash, cleanse and purify ...	50
Provide proper drains ...	13
Provide back doors ...	12
Miscellaneous ...	39
	<hr/> 389

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were 60 cases of Infectious Disease reported during the
year 1914.

Number of Notifications ...	60
Houses re-visited ...	140
Houses fumigated ...	75

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFICATIONS, 1914.

DISEASE.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903
Scarlet Fever ...		4	5	4	4	4	2	1	2	8	1	5	40	13	18	20	42	22	35	53	13	18	90	55
Enteric Fever ...			1			1	3				1	1	7	6	4	16	11	14	17	13	7	8	5	22
Diphtheria										1		1	2		2	1	5	6	1	4	5	2	14	21
Membranous Croup													...		1				2				3	
Erysipelas.....			1		2				1	3		2	9			3	1	3	1	4	3	1	5	6
Puerperal Fever			1										1	1		2	1			2		1	2	
Continued „										1			1			1		2			1		1	
Small Pox .....													...											1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum													...			3								
Pulmonary Tuberculosis													...		4	2								
Totals.....	0	4	8	4	6	5	5	1	3	13	2	9	60	20	29	48	60	47	56	76	29	30	120	105

I have visited all the cases of Infectious Disease reported as early as possible, and given printed and verbal instructions as to the proper means of isolation of the patients; also as to the disinfection of clothing and surroundings, and carried out any instructions of the Medical Officer of Health. At the termination of each case the house was fumigated, and all necessary steps taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

Careful attention has been paid to the drains, privies, and milk supply, and defects found have been remedied.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Slaughter-houses, Fish, Fruit, and Butchers' Shops have been regularly inspected. The entire carcase of one cow was seized, and condemned as unfit for the food of man. The butcher was prosecuted and fined £10 and costs.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

Nineteen smoke observations have been taken. Legal proceedings were taken in two cases; in one of these, further proceedings were taken to enforce the order.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been inspected at intervals. Three workshops were found in need of Limewashing. These matters have been dealt with.

DAIRES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

These have been regularly inspected, and found well kept, and no cause for complaint.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE WALSH,

Inspector of Nuisances.